



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2005

Contact: Brook Williamson (619) 595-4645

COUNTY USES HELICOPTER TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDE

Aerial Applications Help Prevent the Risk of West Nile Virus

- WHAT:** The County of San Diego will begin conducting aerial mosquito larvicide applications to local area wetlands. The larvicide helps control mosquito populations and reduces the risk of West Nile virus. The aerial applications will occur monthly at 27 key breeding areas during the mosquito season.
- WHY:** Controlling mosquito breeding and eliminating backyard breeding sites are essential in preventing the spread of the virus.
- WHO:** Supervisor Greg Cox, District 1
Chris Conlan, Supervising Vector Ecologist, Dept. of Environmental Health
- WHEN:** Thursday, May 12 at 12:15 p.m.
- WHERE:** Fenton Pond (Off I-5, on Hollister St. between Main St. and Palm Ave.)
Signs will be posted to direct media. (Thomas Guide, p.1330, B-6)
- VISUALS:** Helicopter fly-over and application of larvicide; mosquito larvae and live mosquito-eating fish; mosquito traps; samples of larvicide granules; insect repellent; West Nile virus educational materials.

BACKGROUND: West Nile virus, common throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East, was first reported in the U. S. in 1999. Last year in the U.S., 2,470 human cases were confirmed and there were 88 human deaths. Last year in San Diego County, two human cases of West Nile virus were diagnosed, however one case was determined to be acquired in Port of Los Angeles and the other case was undetermined. In addition, 34 dead birds and two horses tested positive for the virus last year in the county.

Although WNV has not been detected in the County so far this year, past testing has shown the virus is in the county. Surrounding counties have already identified positive dead birds, mosquitoes and chickens this year.

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